

From: Brent Neal
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:39am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment upon the proposed final settlement to the Microsoft antitrust trial. I understand that under the Tunney Act, the court is required to consider public commentary before ruling on the settlement.

I do not believe the proposed settlement is sufficient to prevent Microsoft from continuing its illegal practices. The settlement, to my reading, does not prevent Microsoft from pursuing de facto dominance in areas unrelated to the computer software and enterprise desktop industry. One particularly troubling instance of this is Microsoft's push to encourage record companies to use Microsoft's proprietary Windows Media format. Already, Universal has released CDs with the digital music encoded in Windows Media format, thus making them unusable to people without the Windows Operating System. This behavior is of the sort that the Sherman Antitrust Act was designed to prevent, yet the settlement in this case does not explicitly forbid it.

Please rectify this and any other shortcomings in the settlement or even better, prosecute Microsoft fully for their continued violations of antitrust law.

Sincerely,

Brent Neal

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